

# Save our drinking water, creeks and bay by following the simple dos and don'ts

Don't	Instead Do This
<p>Do not pour, blow, place any substance into the street or storm drain.</p> 	<p>Dispose wastewater from cleaning into sink, toilet, or sanitary sewer--- not the storm drain, driveway or street.</p> <p>Try using non-toxic alternatives in home and gardening activities.</p>  <p><i>Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drain!</i></p> <p>Take toxic material, such as paint, unused cleaning substances, and oils (including lotions) to a hazardous waste drop-off site. For more information, call (408) 299-7300.</p>
<p>Don't be a gutter flooder by:</p> <p><i>Over watering gardens and lawns.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive water runoff from irrigation is a great environmental threat because the water collects residue from fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and the street.</li> </ul> <p><i>Allowing sprinklers to run before it rains or during rain.</i></p> <p><i>Watering your sidewalk instead of your lawn.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved surfaces increase the speed of water, and wash contaminants into the storm drain.</li> </ul> 	<p>Conserve water from landscaping by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installing drip irrigation; or,</li> <li>Resetting irrigation flows to allow water to soak into landscape slowly, rather than allowing water to rapidly runoff into drains--- especially between winter and summer seasons.</li> </ul> <p><b>BY REDUCING WATER FLOW FROM YOUR PROPERTY, YOU ARE REDUCING THE RISK OF WATER POLLUTION...AND SAVING MONEY!</b></p> <p>The water district offers many irrigation conservation programs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water-Wise House Calls to evaluate the efficiency of your irrigation system (1-800-548-1882.)</li> <li>Rebates for irrigation systems (both residential and commercial) 408-265-2607 ext. 2639.</li> </ul>

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<b>Don't</b>	<b>Instead Do This</b>
<p>Don't hose down driveways. Litter and grime that collect on sidewalks and driveways are a source of pollution.</p> 	<p>Sweep and dispose of material in garbage, or if it is yard waste, dispose in yard waste container.</p> 
<p>Don't wash vehicles on paved surfaces.</p>	<p>Use a commercial car wash. The sewers established at these facilities do not flow into the bay, and are treated at a water facility. In addition, car washes use recycled water.</p>
<p>Don't spend more time driving alone. Smog and air pollution are carried by rain and into the storm drain.</p>	<p>Bicycle, take public transit (Route 168 is a new express bus from Gilroy to San Jose), or carpool. Consolidate your trips. Call 511 or visit <a href="http://www.511.org">www.511.org</a> for alternative trip solutions.</p>
<p>Don't Leave pet waste on sidewalks and on lawns to wash into storm drains.</p>	<p>Pick up pet wastes and put them in the garbage or toilet.</p>
<p>Don't leave hazardous spills on paved surfaces or wash them down the street.</p>	<p>Use cat litter or other absorbent to clean up toxic material spills, and dispose waste at hazardous waste site. If a large spill, contact household hazardous waste (408) 755-7665 or Public Works in Morgan Hill (408) 776-7337 for direction on what to do.</p>
<p>Do not allow vehicle leaks.</p>	<p>Repair all vehicle leaks promptly. Have your car inspected and maintained regularly.</p>
<p>Don't use garden chemicals 24 hours before it rains.</p>	<p>Use garden chemicals according to label instructions.</p>

**\* Report illegal dumping in or near storm drains immediately by calling (408) 776-7337.**

If you are interested in learning more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or [environ@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@morganhill.ca.gov) .